

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO HQ TAC LANGELEY AFB VA
552ND AWAC WG TINKER AFB
US MISSION NATO 2076
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AFB GE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1065

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AWACS, NATO, MILL, DA
SUBJECT: DENMARK MOVES CLOSER TO AWACS PROCUREMENT (C)

SUMMARY: PRIOR TO B/GENERAL PIOTROWSKI'S EXCELLENT
BRIEFING ON E-3A TACTICAL EVALUATION, DANISH DEFENSE
OFFICIALS REVEALED THE POSSIBILITIES OF THEIR CONTRIB-
UTION TO AWACS PROCUREMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. B/GENERAL PIOTROWSKI BRIEFED A LARGE GROUP OF KEY
DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, ON THE
RESULTS OF THE BRAVE SHIELD XV AWACS TACTICAL EXERCISE.
GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS OF THE PRIMARY DANISH DEFENSE
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STAFFS, PLUS KEY REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST DANISH DEFENSE
ORGANIZATIONS, WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE DANISH PROJECT
OFFICER DESCRIBED THE TURNOUT FOR THE BRIEFING AS ONE
OF THE LARGEST HE HAD SEEN IN MANY YEARS.

2. THE GENERAL'S EXCELLENT BRIEFING ADDRESSED SIGNIFICANT
DANISH RESERVATIONS ON AWACS (SURVIVABILITY AND AVAIL-

ABILITY) PERFECTLY. PIOTROWSKI'S RESPONSES TO THE FEW REMAINING QUESTIONS FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING WERE EASILY HANDLED, INDICATING THAT THE BRIEFING CLEARLY ADDRESSED AND ANSWERED MANY PREVIOUS DANISH ARGUMENTS CONCERNING AWACS. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THIS BRIEFING FOR THOSE NATO MEMBERS HAVING SIMILAR RESERVATIONS.

3. OF SIGNIFICANCE, HOWEVER, WERE COMMENTS MADE TO EMBASSY ODC CHIEF PRIOR TO PIOTROWSKI'S BRIEFING, AND CONFIRMED THEREAFTER. DANISH AWACS PROJECT OFFICER ADVISED THAT DANES WERE PREPARING TO PROPOSE A LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO PROCUREMENT OF AWACS AND FOLLOW-ON OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS. HE STATED THAT DENMARK'S PROCUREMENT COMMITMENT WOULD BE BELOW THE ONE-AND-ONE-HALF PERCENT ACQUISITION COSTS RECOMMENDED IN THE SECOND MEETING OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS IN BRUSSELS, BUT WOULD STILL BE SIGNIFICANT. HE ESTIMATED THAT DANISH CONTRIBUTION WOULD MORE CLOSELY APPROXIMATE ONE PERCENT OF ACQUISITION COSTS. STILL, IF THIS HAPPENS, IT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT TURNAROUND IN DENMARK.

4. DANISH AWACS PROJECT OFFICER STATED THAT DANISH INTENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROCUREMENT OF AWACS WAS AN AGREED DEFENSE STAFF POSITION SUPPORTED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HE CAUTIONED THAT AWACS WAS STILL A SENSITIVE POLITICAL QUESTION IN DENMARK AND THAT THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM MUST BE CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED BY MOD MOLLER. HE CAUTIONED THAT INITIATIVES TAKEN ON THIS COMMITMENT

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SHOULD BE SOLELY DANISH INITIATIVES AND WARNED AGAINST PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT IN NATO CHANNELS. HE FURTHER STATED THAT DANISH PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT COMMITMENT WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT TO EXTENDED PAYMENT PERIOD OVER SEVERAL YEARS AND OBLIGATIONS MUST OCCUR TOWARD THE END OF THE PROCUREMENT CYCLE. HE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT SIGNIFICANT COST GROWTH IN THE PROGRAM WOULD ALSO JEOPARDIZE THEIR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS LEVEL.

5. IF TRUE--AND WE BELIEVE IT IS-- WE FIND THIS REVERSAL IN DANISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS AWACS MOST ENCOURAGING. WE MUST WARN, HOWEVER, THAT DANES MUST BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP AND CONTROL THEIR OWN MEANS OF ANNOUNCING THIS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AND THAT OUR OWN ENTHUSIASM FOR EARLY RESOLUTION TO THE AWACS QUESTION SHOULD NOT PREEMPT THEM.

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Message Attributes

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